

My name is Beth Agdish and I am a teacher in Hartford. I am writing today to show my support modernizing the teacher certification process in Connecticut.

We need to modernize the teaching certification process in Connecticut because:

- The Connecticut teacher certification process is cumbersome and outdated
- It presents unnecessary obstacles to becoming a teacher in public schools
- Many individuals who want to become teachers are deterred due to time and budget restraints
- Many potential teachers who already have classroom experience cannot use this to advance their careers
- Connecticut needs to do something to address the ever-increasing staffing shortage

This archaic certification process has a ripple effect to other issues within our school systems, including chronic staffing shortages and a lack of teacher diversity. We need to make the pathway to teaching more accessible.

Some ways we can modernize the teaching certification process are by:

- Implementing grow your own programs where students can be introduced to the teaching profession as a viable career option at a young age
- Take into account classroom experience and abilities, rather than only relying on test scores to determine who can teach
- Implement programming that makes it easier for individuals to balance a budget or their family while also studying to become an educator

Our students deserve more, and our teachers deserve more. We demand Connecticut legislators modernize the teaching certification process and pass H.B. 6879.

Thank you for your time,

Beth Agdish